Amnoements and Meetings.

ACADRIST OF MUSIC.-Italian Opers. "Alda." Mile BOOTIE'S THEATER.-" Chesney Wold." Mme. Janau-schek. Colosastis. —Day and evening: "Cyclorama of Paris by Night."

DALT'S FIFTH AVENUE THEATER .- "Love's Labor Lost." GRAND OFERA HOUSE.—"Humpty Dumpty at School." NIBLO'S GARDEN.-At 1:30 and at 8. "Leatherstocking." OMMPIO THEATER.-Vaudeville and Novelty Enter-

Union Square Theatre.—At 1:30 and at 8: "Led astray." TONT PASTOR'S OPERA HOUSE -Varieties. WALLACK'S THEATER.-At 1:30 and at 8: "Money."

Association Hall.-Lecture. Daniel Dougherty. BAIN HALL.—"The Pilgrim."
COOPER INSTITUTE.—Rapid Transit Meeting.

NATIONAL ACADEMY OF DESIGN.-Water Color Exhibi ROBINSON HALL .- Lecture. Mrs. Everett. SEVENTH-ST. M. E. CHURCH.-Lecture. The Rev. R.

TWENTY SECOND REGIMENT ARMORY.-Concert. Gil-more's Rand.

Index to Advertisements.

A MURREPENTS-Eleventh Page-5th and 6th columns, BANKING AND FINANCIAL-Ninth Page-6th column. BANKING-HOUSES AND BANKERS-Tenth Page-5th col-

ROARD AND ROOMS-Eleventh Page-3d column. BOARD AND ROOMS-Elecenth Page-31 column.
BESINSSE NOTICES-NIIH Page-31 column.
CHAROES FOR BUSINESS MEN-Tenth Page-5th column.
CHAROES FOR BUSINESS MEN-Tenth Page-5th column.
COPACINESSIUM NOTICES-NINTH Page-3d column.
DANCIN: ACADEMIES-Eighth Page-5th column.
DENGES UT-Eighth Page-6th column.
DENGES UT-Eighth Page-6th column.
DENGES UT-Eighth Page-5th column.
DENGES WEST OF THE PAGE-5th COLUMN.
EIROFEAN ADVERTISEMENTS-Tenth Page-5th and 6th
columns.

columns.

Fixancial—Tenth Page—4th and 5th columns.

Fixancial—Tenth Fage—5th column.

Fixanters—Eleghth Fage—5th column.

Hall Wanted Males—Elecanth Page—5th column.

Hall Wanted Males, Harness, &c.—Ninth Page—3d HOUST AND FARMS WANTED-Ninth Page-3d column. House And Elecenta Page—1st column.
INSTRUCTION—Eighth Page—5th and 6th columns.
INSTRUCTION—Eighth Page—5th and 6th column.
ILOUTHES AND MEETINGS—Eigenth Page—6th column.
ILOUTHES AND THE PAGE—1st column.
MARHAGES AND DEATHS—Secenth Page—6th column.
MISCRILANEOUS—Tenth Page—5th column; Treetith Page—
4th 5th and 6th columns.

HISCRELANDOUS-Tenth Page-5th column; Tweifth P 4th, 5th, and 6th columns. MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS-Eleventh Page-6th column. Musical Instruments—Repenth Page—6th column.

New Publications—Eighth Page—5th column.

Real Estate For Sale, City—Ninth Page—1st column.

Recording Brooklyn—Ninth Page—1st column.

New Jersey—Ninth Page—1st and 2d columns; Country Ninth Page—3d column; Auction—Ninth Page—3d column.

To Exchange—Ninth Page—3d column.

Salids by Auction—Eighth Page—6th column.

Sayings Banks—Tenth Page—6th column.

Sayings Banks—Tenth Page—5th column.

Situations Wanten, Males—Elecenth Page—3d and 4th columns.

STREIAL NOTICES—Seventh Page—6th column. STEAMBOATS AND RAILBOADS—Tenth Page—5th and 6th

FIRAMERS, OCEAN-Eleventh Page-1st column. TEACHERS—Eighth Page—6th column.
To Let. BROOKLYN PROPERTY—Ninth Page—8d column CITY—Ninth Page—2d and 3d columns; COUNTRY—Ninth Page—3d columns.

CITY-Ninth Page-24 and 34 columns; COUNTRI-Ninth Page-34 column. TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN-Eighth Page-6th column. WINTER RESORTS-Eleventh Page-3d column.

Business Notices.

GENERAL ACCIDENT POLICIES BY THE MONTH Money Loaned on Diamonds, Watches, Selverware, and the same bought. GROROTE C. ALLEN, 841 Broadway, near Pourteenth-st.

THE SEVEN SENSES, by Dr. R. W. Raymond, in Transon Lacrence Erras No. 5. Price 5 cents. WEISS ON SHAKESPEARE.—Six Shakespearean Studies by Roy. John Whise, reported in The Tribune Lecture Revea No. 4. Price 5 cests.

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TERMS OF THE TRIBUNE.

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Terms, eash in advance. Address. THE TRIBUNE. New-York. Advettisements received at up-town offices, 54; W. kd-si, or 308 W. 33d-st.; at the Harlem Office, 2,386 Std-st. or 308 W. 38d-st.; at the Harlem Office. 2,300 Fourth-ave., between 129th and 130th-sts.; and at the Brooklyn Branch Office, 333 Washington-st., ne. door to the Post-office, till 8 p. m., at regular rates. THE TRIBUNE IS EUROPE.—An office for TRIBUNE Advertisements and Subscriptions is now open in London, No. St. Flect-st., E. C. All English and Continental advertisements intended for insertion in The New-York TRIBUNE should be sent direct to the London Office. Subscriptions for any period will be received at the same office, and single copies of the paper may always be obtained.

THE NEW-YORK TRIBUNE.

RIGHT ST. C. London.

THE NEW-YORK TRIBUNE. 84 Fleet-st., E. C., London.

During the construction of the front of the new Tribune building. The Tribune Office may be found in the first building in the rear on Spruce-st. The Tribune Counting Room is on the first floor, and is entered at the second door down Spruce-st. from the old site.

New Dork Daily Tribune.

FOUNDED BY HORACE GREELEY.

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 1874.

TRIPLE SHEET.

It is reported that Mr. Gladstone will no longer take an active part in British Parliamentary proceedings The Ashantee city of Coomassie surrendered on the 28th of January. ____ There has been severe fighting in Biscay, Spain; the advantage so far has been with the Republicans. The town of Portugalete has been occupied by the Republicans. === The insurrection in Japan is spreading. The foreigners are preparing to leave Nagasaki. ____ It is said that Cardinal Antonelli has called all the bishops to Rome to see the Pope before

A prayer crusade against intemperance is to begin at Pittsburgh to morrow. —— In the House of Representatives, on Saturday, the Washington and Point Lookout Railroad bill was referred to the Committee of the Whole; the House adjourned till Tuesday. - A beavy rain-storm is prevailing in the West, and a flood in the Ohio is anticipated.

The new Brooklyn Tabernacle was dedicated. Bishop Coxe, Presidents Robinson and Campbell, and the Rev. Dr. Sunderland occupied metropolitan pulpits. Women interested in the Temperance movement decided to make systematic visitations. The corporation of Trinity Church determined not to lease property to dramsellers. ____ The Assembly Committee on Cities heard testimony in relation to street cleaning. Gold, 1194, 1192, 1124. Thermometer, 45°, 44°, 40°.

All who desire to deal intelligently with the individual appeals for charity, which are constantly reaching them at their homes and gate this matter, the Hempstead Reservoir offices, will do well to cut out and preserve contract, the Third-ave. sewer, the Nicholson for reference the elaborate statement of the pavement, and the enormous Bridge frauds. different charitable organizations of the city, the work of each, and the place to which the various classes of charitable applicants may a useless work inefficiently built, profited by be referred, which we print this morning on the second page.

The letter of our Paris correspondent, published on the third page to-day, refers to a claim which the ministry of President Mac-Mahon seems inclined to make, that the at the Cooper Institute may be largely at-National Assembly has no power to reconsider | tended by that class of our citizens who can its course in prolonging the President's term promptly secure rapid transit if they will. It of office for seven years. There is something should be distinctly understood that very few, dition. November 13, 1873, its note circulation

course of the Assembly, on previous occasions, is directly opposed.

Next to seeing and talking with Castelar, doubtless, is the pleasure of reading what an observant and bright woman has to say about him. And on the third page of THE TRIBUNE te-day is printed just such an admirable sketch of the great Spaniard. Our correspondent was less fortunate in her quest for Republicans; the devoted Blinker-guide, philosopher, and friend, as he was-found only grumblers. In the living picture of the man who is Spaniard first and Republican afterward, the reader, however, will find not only entertainment, but much to hope for Spain while Castelar lives.

It is possible that there is no truth in the report, which comes to us by cable, that Mr. Gladstone has resolved no longer to take an active part in British parliamentary proceedings; but there is much to be said in its favor. The letter from our London correspondent, published on the third page this morning, shows how nearly the Liberal party came toward disorganization. To a person of Mr. Gladstone's temperament this must have been peculiarly annoying, and it is easy to imagine that he should court retirement. There is some reason to believe that his withdrawal from political affairs, if it should be merely temporal, would benefit both himself and the Liberal party.

We give, on our eighth page, some features of the annual report of the United States Coast Survey. Last year's work was fully up to that of its predecessors. Great progress was made in the general triangulation, by which the Survey is gradually fixing the position, not only of every point along the coast, but of all the interior measurements of the United States. Eventually, all maps and all descriptions of real estate boundaries in the country, will be dependent upon the data furnished by the Survey. Errors, varying from two to ten miles in the positions of landmarks, are reported as among the discoveries of last year. The description of the researches in our harbor will be read with interest; it appears from them that while extensive changes may result in consequence of the docks and piers now building, there will, it is hoped, be no injury to the harbor, if the improvements are kept within the limits assigned by the Survey.

Do Congressmen, who are getting so befogged in financial complications, realize how easily they might earn the gratitude of every business man in the country? We do not now mean that they should do this by the adoption of any particular theory-by an immediate decision either in favor of inflation or contraction, free banking, or specie payments. What the business interests immediately demand is vastly simpler than any of the questions raised by these subjects. All that is just now asked of Congress is that it will have the goodness to fix the status of forty-four millions of greenbacks. Are they to be part of the circulation, or are they not? If they are, will not Congress say so at once? If they are not, will not Congress say that at once? Prompt action on either side would be a positive advantage to every legitimate business of the country. The delay is absolutely and solely in the interest of gamblers. Whatever else Congress does, or forbears to do, will it not at least earn the gratitude of business men by deciding this question? Give our merchants some clue to the value of the dollar in which they are dealing! Business is stagnant and will remain so till we know whether we have 366 or 400 millions of Greenbacks. Cannot the House take the initiative on this point and settle it?

On Saturday last Winchester Britton walked into Court with a Grand Jury which had been sitting [seven weeks, whose term had been twice extended at his request, which had found officials, and whose bills he had neglected to sign, after he knew (his own friends being the witnesses) that he would have but a day or two more in which to act, and coolly announced that the jury had no bills to present, as there was no District-Attorney to sign them. It was a cynical defiance of public opinion, that fully justifies, as perhaps nothing he has done in the past more emphatically indorses, the judgment and the language of the Governor. There will be few henceforth to doubt that the charges that he was in the District-Attorney's office to pretect rather than to prosecute the thieves were true, and that the Governor was not incorrect in saying that he has been guilty of "an official malfeasance which is declared to be a felony." It will not now be improper to state that the Commissioners of Charities were introduced before the Grand Jury by Mr. Britton in their own behalf to testify in explanation of their own violations of law, and that still the Grand Jury found cause to order ten indictments against each. Mr. Britton, faithful to the Ring as ruin overtook him, defeated the will of the jury by delaying to sign the indictments ordered, just long enough to destroy them.

The Committee of Fifty of Brooklyn are at work again with renewed energy. They indicate the direction of their next attack by exposing in the report published elsewhere one of the jobs in sewer building of Contractor Kingsley and Commissioner Fowler. The report is milder in language than the facts really warrant, but the conservative tone of its reports has been a characteristic and possibly source of strength of the Reform Committee of Brooklyn. Briefly told. the facts about this job are these: A sewer needed repair; the Board of City Works thereupon concluded to build a new one; instead of advertising for bids, the work was privately given to Kingsley (just as the great Hempstead Reservoir swindle was arranged); and now after costing \$331,977 52 (or \$145,000 more than competent engineers say it could have been well built for), the sewer is found to be practically worthless. This is one of the many jobs in Brooklyn authorized by corrupt Legislatures in the past. It is time the present Legislature should set a committee to investi-They are all of a class, and the same men who are now after a third of a million dollars for them. It is a very good time to investigate in Brooklyn.

Without insisting that Mr. Eastman's plan is the best for attaining rapid transit, we nevertheless hope that the meeting to-night

are willing to further any scheme which aims to secure a portion of the expense from the city treasury. Doubtless this is a much more desirable object than many which have previously received assistance; but our people are in no mood at present for incurring fresh debts. An essential difficulty which has thus far stood in the way of investment by capitalists in rapid transit schemes is that the best routes have never been attainable. Doubtless if it were certain that a read for steam cars could never be laid on Third or Sixth-ave., or up Broadway, it would be comparatively easy to secure capital for a Second or Eighthave. line. As matters now stand, men hesitate to make investments in routes like these last-named, lest the value of their enterprise should presently be destroyed by the Legislature's granting the more eligible routes to other applicants. This is one of the practical difficulties which has thus far always stood in the way, and which we shall be glad to see somehow obviated. Mr. Eastman has been giving intelligent study to the various conditions of the problem. His position in the Legislature may enable him to render us special service, and his bill deserves at any rate the very careful consideration which we bespeak for it to-night from the meeting, and hereafter from the Legislature.

THE MERCHANTS AND THE TREASURY. All our advices from Washington, both public and private, represent that the wrongs of the importers excite general sympathy in Congress, and that a strong disposition is manifested to do something for their relief. The chaotic condition of the Customs laws is fully realized at the Treasury Department, and successive Secretaries have urged upon the Government the need of a revision and reform. Mr. Richardson, as we showed the other day, took a very decided stand, some years ago, against the constitutionality of a law authorizing the seizure of books and papers, and we do not believe his opinion has since undergone any change. Indeed, from neither the executive nor the legislative branch of the Government ought the merchants to fear any serious opposition to their demands, provided their case can be fairly considered and decided on its merits. Their only enemies are the tribe of special agents, spies, informers, Jaynes, Sanborns, Butlers, whose interest in the continuance of the present system is enormous, and whose power at Washington it would be rash to despise.

Let us remind Congress, however, that halfway reforms will satisfy nobody. There are four or five points upon which the merchants have a right to insist. In the first place, the Customs laws and the regulations of the Treasury must be revised and codified. Secretary McCulloch said in his report in 1867: "The 'laws relating to the foreign and coasting trade and the collection of revenue from customs are now dispersed through many volumes of statutes and have been so frequently modified by amendments of their original provisions that on many points it is difficult for merchants as well as for the officers whose duty it is to construe and execute them, to determine what is the law in force. It is of great importance that laws regulating interests so various and vast should be so systematized that the rights and duties of the classes whose interests are most directly affected by them may be clearly apparent. Their present complication is a source of serious embarrassment to the mercantile community, and it is not less embarrassing to the officers of customs." Secretary Richardson has been quite as emphatic in his complaints of this disgraceful state of things as Mr. McCulloch. "There is often," he says, a direct conflict between different statutes, and occasionally between two or more provisions of the same statute, while single provisions are frequently held to embrace different meanings."

In the revision of these laws it will be necessary to take into consideration the whole subimportant bills against grossly delinquent ject of importers' grievances, and it is apparent that a genuine reform will call for changes much more sweeping than the mere straightening out of crooked clauses and adjustment of contradictions. The seizure of books and papers, and the payment of moieties to revenue officers and informers, are twin infamies which the indignation of the community points out for destruction; and when these go, it is probable that the whole system of ascertaining duties on imports will need a careful revision. Secret compromises between merchants and the Custom-house, for the release of invoices under seizure, are a fruitful source of fraud, blackmail, and demoralization, which ought to be crushed at once. Senator Fenton's bill, already passed by the Senate, which limits forfeiture for irregularity, undervaluation, &c., to the goods in respect to which the wrong is committed, instead of allowing the seizing officer to grasp as he now does the entire invoice of which the offending articles may have formed only an inconsiderable part, is so clearly just that we do not see how the House can hesitate to agree to it. Finally, the merchants have a right to insist that when duties upon an importation have once been liquidated and the goods released, the transaction in the absence of fraud shall be final, and the Government shall have no right after the goods have been placed upon the market, to demand additional duties on the plea that its own agents made a mistake in the settlement. Carry out these reforms, and though a few lucky politicians may lose their enormous perquisites, the revenues will be more faithfully collected and the

whole commercial atmosphere will be purified. THE BANK OF FRANCE.

The Bank of France is now moving in the direction of specie payments, and it is an indisputable fact that the policy of the managers of that institution is directly the reverse, in every particular, of that which seems most in favor at Washington. The method upon which the Bank of France is proceeding may be briefly stated as follows:

I. To maintain a rate for discounts and advances higher than that of the great centers of trade and exchange in Germany, England, Belgium, and Holland, and also somewhat higher than the natural rate in Paris outside of the Bank. The object of this is to check the increase of loans and discounts. But our Mortons and Kelleys and Logans wish to have money artificially plenty, and interest artificially low, and banks multiplied in number, in order that their loans and discounts may be increased, speculation stimulated, and the purchasing power of money diminished.

II. To contract the volume of notes in circulation. Ever since the rate of discount touched seven per cent, at the beginning of last November, the determination of the Bank to go no further in the direction of inflation has been apparent to those who from week to week have followed the statements of its con-

been reduced to \$560,000,000. This is a decrease of \$43,000,000, or sixteen millions more than Mr. Richardson has expanded our legaltender circulation in about the same interval.

III. To increase the specie reserve. This has been effected to the amount of \$26,000,000 since the last week in October, the figures being \$145,000,000 on the 28th of October, and \$171,000,000 on the 5th; of February. During the week ending on the last mentioned day four millions in gold were withdrawn from the Bank of England and sent to Paris as an effect of the policy of the Bank of France. It is perfectly well known to practical financiers in Europe, that if the rate of discount is five per cent in Paris and three per cent in London, gold will be sent from London to Paris under all ordinary circumstances, and without regard to the balance of trade. Here is a suggestive fact, illustrating an important truth, which we commend to the attention of Mr. Boutwell.

IV. To decrease the amount of capital invested in Government bonds. The importance of reducing the amount of the Bank's loans to the State as a preliminary to resumption is well understood both by the French Government and by the Bank. The Bank is not so insane as to ask for the privilege of advancing more money to the Government in order that it may get more bonds as a security and pretext for expanding its note circulation; though we know not why bank circulation by the hundreds of millions may not as well be issued against Government bonds in France as in America-except that they have tried it in the former country to their cost. Within the last four months the French Government has redeemed over sixty million dollars of its debt to the Bank of France, and for no other purpose than to facilitate the resumption of payments by the Bank in specie.

It would seem that the day of resumption by the Bank cannot be far distant. On the 5th of February its condition was as follows;

Combining the United States Treasury and the National banks, which, so far as resumption is concerned, are united as closely as the Siamese twins, we should obtain a very different showing-in round numbers, one-half the specie, double the Government bonds, three times the loans and discounts, fifty per cent more paper money, and six times as much on deposit. And yet we are recommended to pursue a policy in every respect the exact reverse of that which restored a sound currency to England half a century ago, and is now about to do the same for Francea policy, in short, which never ended and never can end in anything but repudiation and bankruptey.

ORGANIZED CHARITY.

The saddest and most unquestionable claim to greatness which a city can make lies in its miseries and in the charities which spring up to combat them. The list of charitable institations which we print this morning is a sufficient proof of the fact that this city stands among the leading capitals of the world in traveling tradesman who sells the negroes both these respects. The vast aggregation of humanity which has been drawn to this island by its unexampled prosperity necessarily brings with it every variety of wretchedness, and it is greatly to the honor of the citizens of New-York that they have organized with such variety of method and minuteness of detail to meet and relieve this diversified and complex suffering. There is, of course, no city in the world which affords such endless variety of nationality and conditions, and a corresponding diversity will be found among the associations of relief. Every tongue and every faith find their representatives among spondent wants us to send a good, honest, these organizations. No other city has so vast a foreign population, and consequently none extends so liberal a charity to foreigners. The tendency of the time to subdivision of labor is strikingly exhibited in this directory. Each is not so forcible as it otherwise would be. time of life has its own careful guardians. Why not try Washington? Why not write to There are asylums for infants too ask for help, and retreats for the aged broken by the battles of life. There are reformatory institutions for young men and women who have fallen through the heedlessness of youth, tary of the Interior about the "Preemption and sheltering institutions to keep out of temptation those who have not fallen. Different diseases are beginning to have their separate hospitals set apart for them, and special afflictions to find their corresponding treatment and care from special skill and

In the midst of this multiplicity of charities it is not to be expected that without mutual consultation and a general understanding, a waste of effort and of resources can always be avoided. The work of charitable individuals, as well as of institutions, is apt to be divided into two almost equal portionsone devoted to finding and assisting the needy and deserving, and the other to detecting and foiling the attempts of dishonesty and fraud. The lack of free communication between the different organizations, of course, greatly facilitates the schemes of sturdy impostors, and increases the work and the annoyances of the charitable. It is to obviate these inconveniences that some of our most public spirited citizens organized several months ago a Central Bureau of Charities, which was to supply a medium of communication between all the branches of eleemosynary work in the city, furnishing to each all needful information, and establishing a sort of Clearing-house of Charities. They have been at work during this exceptional Winter with excellent results, though hampered by unavoidable circumstances. They have now arrived at a point where it becomes necessary for some final and prompt action to be taken by those who sympathize in their purposes. A meeting will be held this afternoon at the rooms of the Geographical Society in the Cooper Union building, at which Mr. Theodore Roosevelt and Prof. Joy will present their report of the operations and the present condition of the enterprise. It is to be hoped that a scheme of such evident advantage and such a promise of usefulness will not be permitted to fail from any reason. The Winter is ending and with the opening

of Spring it may fairly be expected that much of the suffering incident to this season of general derangement will be alleviated, both by the coming of warmer weather and by the revival of business, which will give industrious poverty a chance for life. But much yet remains to be done, and the highest organizing ability and energy of our best citizens can find no better field of exercise than in so adapting the widely extended machinery of our municipal charities to the complex conditions of our social structure that the next financial crisis, or the next cold Winter, may find us ready for it. By the favor of Providence, this famine to the privations which came from the

ments, and we ought to be prepared for the ordinary run of Northern Winters, when they

" HAIR STRAIGHTENERS."

Swift, in bitter irony, proposed long ago the killing and eating of Irish babies, both as a way of keeping population down and of furnishing food to the survivors. We want much in these days some Dr. Swift to stick these pins of sharp suggestion into our body politic. Emancipation gave us one of the prettiest problems ever presented for working out to an intelligent people, and thus far we have only scratched our heads at it, like a schoolboy blubbering over the Rule of Three. Nobody thought that it would be an easy conundrum to guess, but everybody thought Yankee shrewdness equal to any riddle, and so it might have proved if the Yankee love of the dollar had not intervened; for though Amor is strong, Amor pecunia is stronger, up to this hour, not only as respects the black class, but as to all classes requiring the care of public culture and guidance. W simply drift, and leave the Lord to settle the trouble. Matters might be sooner mended if every voter could receive, as we do, whole sheaves of letters from the South, setting forth the way in which we are dealing with a class numerically in a large majority, not by any means likely to oblige us by dying out, with a grip upon our money, our peace, our comfort, our general political and social being-a class troublesome now, but sure to be infinitely troublesome in the future, unless we take order to prevent it-capable of being made a safe and profitable element or of being misguided or abandoned to something quite the opposite. Formerly, "D- the niggers!" was considered a sufficient and final dismissal of the whole matter. But the objurgatory process is becoming feeble. The more hotly we swear, the less adjustments seem probable. We consider the Black people in the late

Slave States to be the wards of the nation. So are all ignorant, half-helpless men, women, and children. We do not say anything about Christian duty; we leave that to the pulpits; but it is our business to say something of political daty, and from time to time, as occasion offers, we propose to say it plainly. Occasion does offer to-day in this letter which we have received from Fayette County, Texas. It is n't a novelty, for we get such letters sometimes a dozen in a day. Fayette County, Texas, tells the old story. The Blacks there, children comparatively, are constantly made dupes of by the sharp Whites. One scoundrel has done a thriving business by selling them "Free Papers" at \$10 each. Another speculator furnishes them with a stake-pin with cabalistic figures on it. With this the purchaser is told that he can "preëmpt" forty acres of his master's land. Our correspondent estimates that a million of these stake-pins at \$3 each have been sold in the South-Western States. The buyer is told to keep his purchase a secret, for if the white man discovers it the charm will not work, and "the forty acres" will be nowhere. A little less serious swindler is the "Hair Straightener" (colored water), at \$1 per bottle. This is funny, and the story of it a little relieves the doleful monotony of the reports, "Freedmen's Savings Banks are more important. "The great trick here," says our Texas correspondent, "is when one deposits \$10 or \$50, to record it in the poor fellow's pass book \$1 or \$5; and so it is entered in the bank's books. The depositor is unable to read, and, of course, is easily

These are straws which show which way the simoom of swindling is blowing. Our correwide-awake, working man to Texas to start a newspaper of the right sort, and promises him 100,000 cash subscribers. As the people principally interested cannot read, this suggestion Gen. Grant about the " Free Papers ?"-to the Secretary of State about the "Hair Straight-"ener?"-to the Secretary of the Treasury about the Texas Banking !-- to the Secre-"Stake?" Why not apply to the Vice-President? to certain Senators? to certain representatives-B. F. B. for instance? We have no reason to believe that he is in either the Free Paper, the Preemption Stake, or the Hair Straightener speculation, and if early application be made to him we think that he may be kept out of them; and, should he be kept out of them, he will be very eloquent in their denunciation. We do not know that he ever promised to straighten the hair of the entire colored population of the South, but we do know that something very like that was promised to them by the Administration party during the last Presidential election; and it owes a debt to its sable supporters which it ought to pay, unless it means to repudiate all debts whatsoever.

GETTING THINGS SETTLED.

The Supreme Court of Massachusetts, by few strokes of the pen, have determined that women may serve upon School Committees, if the Legislature has no objection. The Legislature will have no objection. To this office women hereafter will be eligible in Massachusetts. Now what is the lesson which this teaches? We certainly think that it should be one of Faith and Trust. The predominant vice of all our reformatory movements is impatience-the desire to build a moral Rome in a day-the determination to have all wrong righted between the rising of the sun and the going down of the samethe childish eagerness for conclusion-disregard of the quality of some questions to settle themselves. We accept only the last of Goethe's motto-" Without haste and with-"out rest." We will have it that quieta non movere is the devil's own maxim. We are like the boy who pulls up his plant every morning to show his mother how much it has grown during the night. We will not understand the value of patience. We cannot understand what Lord Bacon meant by that appeal of his to "the next age." Of course, at the bottom of this irritable feeling there is a good deal of selfishness-the laborer is in a hurry for his hire. But there is also a good deal of that disinterested enthusiasm for the right which keeps the world sweet.

Whether we talk or keep silence, it should be understood that the eternal instinct of the will maintains it in the right direction. It would be useless for us to discuss the probable effect of non-discussion, of silence, of acquiescence, of let-well-enough alone; because these tongue-tournaments, these promiscuous battles, these surging seas of volubility, these well-intentioned follies and mis-Winter has not added the horrors of cold and takes are predestinate. The worst of them is that they discourage sensitive and sensible stagnation of business. But we cannot always men and women, and keep them out of the presumptions in this claim, to which the in the present situation of the city's finances, was \$602,000,000; but on Fob. 5, 1874, it had expect these begins interferences of the sie-1 work when their help is the most wanted. It

is worth while for them sometimes to consider how much, notwithstanding the drawback of mistaken zeal, has really been accomplished. And for this purpose it is hardly necessary to go to history. Sydney Smith, when he collected his early Edinburgh Review essays, pointed out in the Preface how many unjust laws had been repealed since he began to write. Several stupid statutes he had fairly laughed out of existence. He had stuck pins into various parts of the body of English jurisprudence until he had quickened it into something like vital humanity. Any man half a century old need not tax his memory very severely to recall a score of absurdities and injustices which in his short t'me have received quietus. In religion we have become so tolerant that we are in some danger of also becoming indifferent and topid. In politics and morals we have rid ourselves of Slavery. And what a hopeless giant that seemed to be, we need not say. It is true that the defunct giant has left a progeny numerous and troublesome of problems; but the main error of "property in man" is exploded forever, and all else seems easy to deal with. Then in another department of morals, mixed with the physical, it has been settled that abstinence from alcohol is always best. It is easy to write it now, but the world was a long time coming to that conclusion. Finally, let any one who is constitutionally hopeless look at the present condition of the Labor Question, and compare it with the practices, for they had no opinions, of our grandfathers. To this we must add the consideration that the settlement of one important question not seldom disposes of many minor ones. The greater always comprehends the less,

All history teaches us that changes which to the conservative mind seem charged with innymerable pestilent evils frequently prove as wholesome as they were unavoidable. We laugh at that quality of the human intellect which sees the day of judgment in the repeal of a statute; but caution is not of itself bad or undesirable. Until all men are made alike there will be dissentients, although it is creditable to the social man that the dispute is usually about methods. The common instanct of our nature to make the wrong right and the crooked straight is superior to the tools with which we work. The age travels even in its sleep, by night as well as by day, when it thinks itself at rest as well as when it knows that it is moving; nor will the earth cease to revolve upon its axis because women have been placed upon School Committees. We mention this for the benefit of certain gentlemen in Boston who seem to think otherwise.

LENT.

The yearly fast has already made its usual marked change in social gayeties. Weddings, balls, public carnivals by German Chors and Bunds were crowded in the cities into the few days before Ash Wednesday, and now; society of high and low degree has retired until Easter to the graver level of receptions, lunches, and dinners. In the Episcopal Church, the fast has per-

haps rendered more observable the recent di-

vision in that body, the radical churches endeavoring more earnestly to spiritualize its meaning, while the conservative add deeper and darker shades of outward gloom to their sack-cloth and fashes. Lent belongs to that class of religious observances whose inward meaning is in constant danger of being obscured or lost sight of in the outward garments and trappings which from age to age have been hung upon it. Even with this drawback, however, the most indifferent spectator cannot but acknowledge it to be both wholesome and salutary. Perhaps the conception of that mysterious conflict which his neighbors have, and their manner of commemorating it, appear to him absurd and belittling enough. But if they did not remember or commemorate it at all? The washerwoman abjures her daily sausage for weeks: that is a poor sacrifice to divine faith, it is true; but it is the highest for her, as her food and the earning of it occupy nine-tenths of her time and thoughts. The pretty partner at a ball will indulge in no gayety louder than a high-tea until Easter is over; Germans and the dresses sent over by the last steamer she turns her back upon. But whether a human being, whose soul and brain are so often given up to the choice between tulle and faille, or the decision between a shade of ciel blew or blane glacier, whose highest earthly enjoyment consists in whirling through the German with a mirror in her hand and a flag on her head. with numberless other flagged and mirrored swift-legged creatures, is capable of comprehending the God who made her with any but the very smallest glimpse of intelligence, is a question not for us to answer. Every soul, says the old proverb, measures its own Deity, and we perhaps should be thankful if to such as these, in their perfumed ball-room atmosphere, any glimpse of the infinite truth and life which underlies the world should be permitted to penetrate through Lenten forms, even though these should be hampered by scents and sights which have still a ball-room flavor.

Within this circle of loungers in the outer courts of the temple we should remember the countless multitudes of sincere and earnest worshipers to whom this yearly pause in the busy ways of every-day life comes full of strength and comfort. It is a time when they can turn their backs on market and household, on trade and toil; when they can forget that there are children to drudge for, an extravagant wife to support, a dranken husband to bear with and to shelter; they can put out of sight the debt to be paid, the fame worked for which never came, and for a brief space turn their eyes inward on themselves. In this age, with the picture of humanity incessantly upon us, we have fallen into the danger of forgetting what with our duties to our children, society, the Civil Service or the Board of Brokers, that we have a soul inside of our tired bodies, and that there is a God waiting to hear certain words from it. If it is but to remind us of this, and that He, who had higher and more work to do in the world than any man, found it good to give many days to solitude and quiet communion with that unseen Power, Lent is a necessary and healthful observance, and one that well deserves to be held sacred.

The Pioneer Club (colored) in Alexandria, Va. seing lately about to give a ball, announced on the programme that the entertainment would be "strictly moral until 12 o'clock." This odd announcement having caused some comment, the committee of arrangements have written to the newspapers to explain. "Strictly moral" mesos promenading, which even "members of churches may engage in." After that the light fantastic, though "no inferior characters will be allowed inside the building."

The Illinois Senate has passed a bill making drunkenness of railway officers while on duty a oriminal offense. It is already a criminal offe but we suppose the new law provides special penal-